GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:308
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2017
Swachh Shakti Saptah
Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched 'Swachh Shakti Saptah' across the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof along with the objectives achieved, programmes/events organised and the expenditure incurred/likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the number of women participating in the said events, State-wise; and

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to increase the participation of women in the Swachh Bharat Mission and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *308 for 23.03.2017

(a) and (c) Swachh Shakti Saptah has been celebrated from 1st March to 8th March 2017 across the country with various State and district level administrations organising special events to honour and felicitate women champions who have done exceptional work in the field of Rural Sanitation. Several Union Ministers have also participated in the State level events to carry the message of Swachhta and pay tribute to role of women.

The Swachh Shakti Saptah was launched on March 1 jointly by Government of India and State Government of Haryana at Gurugram in Haryana in the presence of several hundreds of women champions. Union Minister of RD PR and Drinking Water and Sanitation addressed the launch event among others. During the Saptah, various State and District level administrations organized special events to honour and felicitate women champions who have done exceptional work in the field of rural sanitation.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, in association with Government of Gujarat had organised an event called Swachh Shakti 2017 on 8th March, 2017 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed and honoured the women champions on this occasion. State/UT-wise, number of women participated in Swachh Shakti 2017 event is at Annexure-1.

(d) Sanitation is a key issue for women, consistent with their need for privacy, dignity, safety and self-respect. Lack of basic sanitation

and safe water significantly impacts the health and safety of women and leads to low enrollment and high dropout particularly for adolescent girls at puberty in schools. Women face the highest indignity and discomfort due to lack of sanitation facilities. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) gives a special focus to address the sanitation needs of women who play role in planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme. Women, as change agents in the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) have a tremendous impact in many Panchayats. They have been involved not only in mobilizing communities to create a demand for sanitation facilities but also actual construction of toilets and managing production centers and rural sanitary marts for provision of affordable sanitary ware.